

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A digital recording apparatus to which a signal obtained by subjecting signals on a plurality of video camera channels to time division multiplexing is inputted, comprising:

storage means having a by-channel compression rate storage area for storing a compression rate for each of the plurality of video camera channels;

compression means for performing, every time the signal corresponding to one field is inputted, compression processing using the compression rate stored in the by-channel compression rate storage area, corresponding to the inputted signal, in the storage means; and

compression rate control means for updating, every time the signal corresponding to one field has been compressed by the compression means, the compression rate stored in the by-channel compression rate storage area, corresponding to the inputted signal, in the storage means to such a value that an amount of coding after the compression approaches a predetermined target amount of coding on the basis of the amount of coding after the compression and the target amount of coding.

2. (Currently Amended) A digital recording apparatus to which a signal obtained by subjecting signals on a plurality of video camera channels to time division multiplexing is inputting, comprising:

a storage device having a by-channel compression rate storage area for storing a compression rate for each of the plurality of video camera channels;

a compression circuit for performing, every time the signal corresponding to one field is inputted, compression processing using the compression rate stored in the by-channel compression rate storage area, corresponding to the inputted signal, in the storage device; and

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a compression rate control circuit for updating, every time the signal corresponding to one field has been compressed by the compression circuit, the compression rate stored in the by-channel compression rate storage area, corresponding to the inputted signal, in the storage device to such a value that an amount of coding after the compression approaches a predetermined target amount of coding on the basis of the amount of coding after the compression and the target amount of coding.

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